

## Abstract

The aim of this study is to clarify the differences between the thinking of Japanese and Korean women respectively about globalization and English including their perceptions of their own English abilities. This study used the data of Japanese (male: 1,004 and female: 1,156) and Koreans (male: 693 and female: 815) of East Asian Social Survey (EASS). Furthermore, the interviews or questionnaires of free description were conducted as well on 23 Japanese and 23 Korean women respectively.

According to the results of quantitative and qualitative research, the Japanese women agreed to the ideas surveyed more strongly than the Korean women including how positive foreign influences can be and the acceptance of foreign brides in their countries. However, when we look at the results of the qualitative research more carefully, the Japanese women agreed to these ideas from the perspective of cultural communication with foreigners. Alternatively, the Korean women answered these questions, considering Korean situations. From these results, we can assume that the Japanese women agreed to international migration from the perspective of international and cultural communication.

Japanese women, in addition, less than the Korean women supported the idea that a nation should pursue its own benefits even if causes conflict with others. The Korean women mentioned about territorial issues, but the Japanese women did not.

The average scores on cultural items were higher than on the other items. Also, in the qualitative research, many of the respondents answered that their own culture was not damaged by foreign cultures. Comparing the answers of Japanese and Korean women in the qualitative research, the Japanese women felt less than the Korean women that their own culture was not influenced negatively by foreign cultures.

Regarding the items related to the influence of globalization on their own countries' economy, there were no significant differences between Japanese and Korean women in neither the quantitative and nor qualitative research. However, regarding the items surveyed related to the influence of globalization on employment and limitations on the imports of foreign products, there were no significant differences between Japanese and Korean women in the quantitative research. On the other hand, in the qualitative research, the Korean women agreed more strongly than the Japanese women that globalization is good for employment opportunities in their own countries. The former over the latter also agreed more strongly about the liberalization of foreign imports. That is, the results related to these items differed between the quantitative and

qualitative research.

Regarding perceptions of English proficiency, the Korean women showed significantly higher scores than that of the Japanese women. For example, in the younger groups, the Korean women had significantly higher scores than the Japanese women on item 60 B (speaking) and on item 60 C (writing). Alternatively, in the oldest group (over 60 years old), the Japanese women had significantly higher scores than the Korean women on item 60 A (reading).

Finally, from the results of qualitative research, the women of both countries felt that they need English. In sum, there were real differences between both countries regarding globalization, but they all felt that English is necessary for them.